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Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 22 Aug 53

Bulgarian infantry and motorized units and an entire staff have been set up at Kolarovgrad. Another strategic point where military units have been concentrated for maneuvers is in the region between Dragoman, Slivnitsa, and Breznik, all near Godech.

POLITICAL DIRECTORATE ATTACHED TO BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 5 Jul 53

According to reports of Bulgarian refugees, a special Political Directorate has been attached since Stalin's death to the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense. This directorate, which is completely controlled by Soviet representatives, checks on the activities of the political commissars attached to the Bulgarian Army. The political commissars, who are selected from the most fanatic members of the party and have been trained in the USSR, check in turn on the activities of the Bulgarian Army officers. The directorate also follows the activities of the Bulgarian Minister of Defense Col Gen Petur Panchevski.

NEW MILITARY AIRPORTS BEING BUILT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 1 Aug 53

New airports are being built in Czechoslovakia. One of these airports is located at Na-Brazine unidentified in the Kostomlaty region. The work, which began in the first part of 1953, is being done exclusively by military personnel. Civilians are not admitted into the area. Another airport is being built in the Louny region. When completed it will be one of the most modern in the country. The landing strip will be able to handle jet planes.

MODERN AIRPORT BEING BUILT IN ROMANIA -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 11 Aug 53

A modern airport is being built by the Soviets at Tatartunar in Bessarabia. When completed, it will be the largest military airport in south-east Europe.

ROMANIAN MILITARY FORCES INCREASED -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 16 Aug 53

According to information from Bucharest, the Rumanian Army has called an increasing number of reservists into active duty since spring 1953. Most of these men are factory workers. It is said that the number of Rumanian Communist forces has reached about 500,000 men. Since last winter they have increased by 10-15 percent, and the army divisions stationed at the frontier are 90 percent on a war footing. According to even more recent reports, the Rumanian military forces will continue to be increased.

ROMANIAN CONSCRIPTS ASSIGNED TO LABOR UNITS -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 11 Aug 53

Army conscripts from Rumanian bourgeois or kulak families are put into labor units. Such units have been noted around the Danube-Black Sea Canal area.

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